

## Message Text

SECRET

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44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
----- 047082

R 131618Z OCT 76  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6501  
INFO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

S E C R E T LONDON 16374

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS SECDEF AND DIRNSA

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR, PINR, MARR, CY, UK, US

SUBJECT: BRITISH BASES IN CYPRUS

REFERENCE: NICOSIA 3097

DURING CONVERSATION WITH FCO CYPRUS DESK OFFICER FORT ON OCTOBER 7, EMBOFF NOTED, WITHOUT DISCLOSING SOURCES, THAT USG HAD BEEN HEARING SOME INDICATIONS THAT HMG WAS AGAIN PLANNING TO GIVE UP ITS SOVEREIGN BASE AREAS IN 1979. MISS FORT AT ONCE STATED THAT SHE ASSUMED THAT THESE "SOURCES" CAME FROM THE UK MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. SHE EXPLAINED THAT THE UKMOD WARNINGS STEMMED FROM THE FACT THAT THE LATTER'S FIVE-YEAR FORWARD PLAN DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR ANY UKMOD FUNDS TO OPERATE THESE BASE AREAS AFTER 1979. DURING REVIEWS OF PLANNING, FCO HAS REPEATEDLY OBJECTED TO THIS UKMOD POSITION, BUT LATTER SIMPLY REITERATES IT HAS NO PROVISION FOR FUNDS. FORT SAID HMG HAS GIVEN UNDERTAKING TO USG NOT TO SO WITHDRAW FROM THE BASE AREAS. AND SHE WAS CONFIDENT THAT IN FURTHER REVIEW PROCESSES MONEY WOULD BE FOUND AND THE BASE OPERATIONS MAINTAINED IN A WAY SATISFACTORY TO THE UNITED STATES.

2. UKMOD SOURCES INDICATED TO EMBOFF OCTOBER 13 THAT  
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THERE IS "REAL CONCERN" ABOUT THE COST OF MAINTAINING

THE SBAS. NO DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN IN UKMOD, BUT WE ARE WARNED THAT "LATER ON" MOD MAY WISH TO TAKE UP WITH US THEIR ANXIETY ABOUT COSTS. MOD IS NOT READY TO APPROACH US YET BECAUSE THEY ARE STILL "THINKING ABOUT" THE PROBLEM.

3. COMMENT: FCO IS UNDOUBTEDLY SINCERE IN ITS REASSURANCES TO US THAT IT HAS NO INTENTION OF APPROVING GIVING UP THE BASE AREAS. HOWEVER, WE SHOULD REMEMBER THAT LAST YEAR WHEN CARVER WARNED US THAT THE BRITISH WOULD GIVE UP THEIR BASE ON MASIRAH, THE FCO WITH THE SINCEREST OF INTENTIONS ASSURED US THAT THE BRITISH WOULD NOT. THE FCO SUBSEQUENTLY HAD TO ACKNOWLEDGE A SUDDEN CHANGE IN POSITION. WE SHOULD NOT DISREGARD A SIGNAL BY CARVER AND OTHER UK AGENCIES OUTSIDE OF FCO. THEIR EARLY WARNINGS MAY AFFORD US TIME TO TAKE PREVENTIVE MEASURES. AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD'S CONSULTATION IN LONDON OCTOBER 26 SHOULD PROVIDE ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO SOUND OUT THE BRITISH. IN ADDITION, DURING MULLEY'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO SECDEF, USG MAY WISH TO SOUND HIM OUT CONCERNING FUTURE UK INTENTIONS. MOD OFFICIALS EMPHASIZED THAT THIS MATTER IS NOT ON MULLEY'S AGENDA, BUT WE ASSUME THAT OUR DISCREET INQUIRIES RAISED HERE UNDOUBTEDLY WILL LEAD TO MULLEY BEING BRIEFED ON IT.

ARMSTRONG

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECDEF AND DIRNSA.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY PLANS, MILITARY POLICIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 OCT 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
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**Reference:** 76 NICOSIA 3097  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** coburnhl  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <22 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <13 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BRITISH BASES IN CYPRUS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINR, MARR, CY, UK, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006